

Board of Trustees

BP 2350 SPEAKERS

Reference(s):

Education Code Section 72121.5;
Government Code Sections 54950 et seq.

The Board of Trustees welcomes participation from individuals or organizations. Provision is made on Board regular meeting agendas under "Public Comments" at the beginning of the consent agenda for persons wishing to address the Board of Trustees on matters of general interest. Persons may speak to the Board of Trustees either on an agenda item or on other matters of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. The taking of testimony on matters not on the agenda is appropriate, provided that no action is taken by the Board on such matters at the same meeting in which such testimony is taken.

Oral presentations relating to a matter on the agenda, including those on the consent agenda, shall be heard before a vote is called on the item.

Persons wishing to speak to matters not on the agenda shall do so at the time designated at the meeting for public comment. The Board may hear comments from the public under the "Public Comments" section of the agenda, but cannot act on items not listed on the agenda. It is preferred that comments from the audience on items on the agenda be heard at the time items are under consideration, following the staff report and/or Chancellor's recommendation on each item.

Comments on Personnel Matters

Comments on personnel matters must comply with all related laws and regulations.

Students

Students of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District have the same rights and responsibilities accorded to all citizens who wish to attend and participate in Board meetings. Students shall follow the same process as stated above in requesting appearance before the Board.

Interruptions or Interference

Undue interruptions or other interference with the orderly conduct of the business of the Board cannot be permitted. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order and, in accordance with Government Code 54957.9, the President of the Board may terminate the speaker's privilege of address if, after being called to order, he/she persists in improper conduct or remarks.

Those wishing to speak to the Board are subject to the following:

- The President of the Board may rule members of the public out of order if their remarks do not pertain to matters that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board or if their remarks are unduly repetitive.
- Non-scheduled substitutes may not speak in place of scheduled speakers unless alternates have been submitted on the original request.
- Employees who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an exclusive bargaining agent may address the Board under this policy, but may not attempt to negotiate terms and conditions of their employment. This policy does not prohibit any employee from addressing a collective bargaining proposal pursuant to the public notice requirements of Government Code Section 3547 and the policies of this Board implementing that section.
- No member of the public may speak without being recognized by the President of the Board.
- Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three minutes per topic. It is preferred that large groups and organizations wishing to appear before the Board identify a spokesperson who may introduce members who are in attendance in support of the group's position and who will present, on behalf of the group or organization, a consolidated statement, and it is recommended that the statement be limited to three (3) minutes unless a majority of the Board members present wish to grant extra time.
- NOTE: The Board will provide twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used so that the translation is available as the comments are made.
- Thirty (30) minutes shall be the maximum time allotment for public speakers any one subject regardless of the number of speakers at any one board meeting.
- Each speaker coming before the Board is limited to one presentation per specific agenda item before the Board, and to one presentation per meeting on non-agenda matters.
- In order to facilitate complicated or extended presentations, it is recommended that written material be submitted to the Board through the Office of the Chancellor at least 72 hours in advance of the Board meeting.

Also see BP/AP 2345 titled Public Participation at Board Meetings as well as BP 2355 titled Decorum.

Adopted: April 16, 2013; Edited November 20, 2017

Board Reviewed: December 12, 2023